Victim Services in Kansas: A Review and Future Suggestions

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Victim Services in Kansas: A Review and Future Suggestions
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Abstract
The study of victimology emerged around the 1970s—an awakening to the importance for consideration of survivors and victim services. This study reviewed the federal definition for victim services and used it as a guiding thread when studying available resources across Kansas. Additionally, literature provides program suggestions for services across the U.S., effectiveness and utilization of programs, and limitations. In line with other states, findings suggest statewide implementation of an interaction map outlining service name, target audience, and location of victim services. This resource would provide the state with a means for disseminating breadth of services while also locating where services are lacking—typically, services are limited for survivors in rural locations.

Literature Review

Brief Highlight of Victim Services

Rural Service Issues
- Around 20% of survivors utilize services (Bryce et al., 2016).
- Geographical accessibility and fewer services is a major difference for rural and urban victims (Borders & Booth, 2007).
- Rural victims report longer police wait time due to travel (Logan, Evans, Stevenson, & Jordan, 2005).

Sampling

- A total of four hours were exhausted using Google to locate Kansas victim services.
- The following keywords were used in the search engine:
  - Victim services
  - Victim assistance
  - Domestic shelters
  - Office Victims of Crime
  - Rural services
  - Urban services

Example of State-Level Mapping

Findings
- State recognized victim services are limited; provided are a few examples:
  - Mothers Against Drunk Driving
  - Court Appointed Special Advocates
  - Parents of Murdered Children
- Additional local services can be found with intentional searching of the local area; provided are a few examples:
  - Options: Domestic & Sexual Violence Services, Hays, KS
  - Wichita Family Services, Wichita, KS
  - Safe Homes, Winfield, KS

Discussion
- Victim services vary by state.
- No centralized web-site or resource provides survivors with a full breadth of Kansas services.
- While some services exist, they are extremely sparse in rural areas.
- To increase awareness of services, Kansas should consider an interactive map similar to Florida.

Limitations
- Even with four hours spent locating services, those with limited web presence were likely missed.
- With completion of an interactive map, limitations would still exist in disseminating the map for statewide usage.

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